

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 071021Z MAY 76 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1350

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3164

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG EG IS US

SUBJ: REPORTED ISRAELI AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN COMPANY ON SINAI
OIL DRILLING

REF: A) CAIRO 6140; B) TEL AVIV 3129(DEPT ONLY)

1. CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY HAS, OF COURSE, BEEN GIVEN HERE
TO THE REPORT THAT AN AS YET UNNAMED AMERICAN OIL COMPANY
HAS SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO DRILL
FOR OIL IN THE SINAI. EMBASSY WILL REPORT ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION (BEYOND THAT IN REF B) AS SOON AS OBTAINED.

2. WE NOTE AMBASSADOR EILTS' SUPPOSITION THAT THE EGYPTIAN
GOVERNMENT MAY CHARGE ISRAELI BAD FAITH REGARDING THEIR
"REAL DESIRE FOR PEACE". THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IS AWARE
THROUGH OUR PREVIOUS APPROACHES THAT THE USG DOES NOT
BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE LEGALLY ENTITLED TO DRILL FOR OIL IN
THE SINAI. (THEY CLAIM THEIR LEGAL ADVICE IS DIFFERENT).
TO MAKE A FURTHER APPROACH AT THIS TIME, AS SUGGESTED
IN CAIRO'S 6140, WOULD ALMOST INEVITABLY INVITE A CAUSTIC
AND FROSTY RESPONSE SINCE ISRAELIS THEMSELVES ARE
CHARGING THE EGYPTIANS WITH "BAD FAITH" IN CONNECTION
WITH THE SINAI II AGREEMENT FOR INITIATING THE CURRENT
UNSC DEBATE ON ACTIVITIES IN THE WEST BANK. AT PRESIDENT
KATZIR'S RECEPTION ON ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY, MFA
DIRECTOR GENERAL AVINERI MADE THE SAME POINTS TO ME IN THIS
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REGARD WHICH AMBASSADOR DINITZ MADE TO UNDER SECRETARY SISCO

(STATE 108791-NOT SENT CAIRO). IF AN APPROACH TO THE ISRAELIS
IN REGARD TO OIL DRILLING IN THE SINAI IS TO HAVE ANY CHANCE
OF BEING EFFECTIVE, IT SHOULD PROBABLY BE DELAYED UNTIL SOMETIME
AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE CURRENT DEBATE, WHEN HOPEFULLY
THE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE EGYPTIANS WILL BE A LITTLE LESS SOUR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, PETROLEUM CONCESSIONS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV03164
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760176-0640
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760578/aaaacoxx.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 CAIRO 6140
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED ISRAELI AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN COMPANY ON SINAI OIL DRILLING
TAGS: ENRG, EG, IS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006